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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-ninth session
Item 26 of the provisional agenda*
COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN
MILITARY FORCES FROM THE
TERRITORIES OF THE
BALTIC STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 1 September 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I should be grateful if you would have circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 26 of the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session, and of the Security Council, the statement released by the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Minister for Foreign Affairs Antonio Martino, on 31 August 1994 (see annex), expressing great satisfaction that the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia and Latvia was completed by the target date of 31 August 1994, set by CSCE and confirmed by the recent bilateral agreements between the parties.

(Signed) Lorenzo FERRARIN
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/49/150.

ANNEX

Statement released on 31 August 1994 by the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

The Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Antonio Martino, in his capacity as Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), has noted with great satisfaction that the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia and Latvia was completed by the target date of 31 August 1994, set by the Conference and confirmed by the recent bilateral agreements between the parties.

This completes the process that began in 1992 with the Declaration of the Helsinki Summit, a process kept constantly under review by CSCE - providing its good offices and encouraging the necessary agreements between the parties - of which the first major step forward was made on 31 August 1993 with the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Lithuania.

The completion of the Russian troop withdrawals from the Baltic States according to the schedule indicated by the international community shows that when all the parties concerned pool their efforts, it is possible to solve the most intractable problems inherited from the past, peacefully and by negotiation. It also marks a major turning-point in the process of underpinning peace and stability in the region and throughout the European continent, in full compliance with the principles of CSCE.

The Conference wishes to use this occasion to reiterate its readiness to provide its assistance for the implementation of the other bilateral agreements signed when the agreements were concluded for the withdrawal of Russian troops.